

**The Federal Democratic Republic Of Ethiopia**



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**Ministry of Agriculture and Natural resource**

**Nutrition Sensitive agriculture**

**draft Strategic Plan**

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**MoANR, Ethiopia**

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## **Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

Ethiopia has undertaken a far reaching program of economic reforms over the last decades and the economy has registered rapid growth rates averaging 11 percent annum over the past seven years placing Ethiopia among the top performing economics in sub Saharan Africa and the government has made poverty and hunger reduction its top priorities.

The Government of Ethiopia, through its national policies, plans and programs, rendered high priority to the agricultural and rural development sector. Agricultural Development Led Industrialization (ADLI) has been the overarching policy of the government since the early 1900s and assigned the highest priority to the transformation of agriculture from a subsistence source of livelihood to market-oriented economic sector, so as to enable it to become a driving force for accelerating the country's economic development. This policy has been elaborated through other policy documents such as Rural Development Policy and Strategy (MoA 2003), the Food Security Programme ( 2003), Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction ( 2005) and , the Growth and Transformation Plan 2010/11-2014/15 and GTP2 (2016-2020).

Ethiopia Institute Agricultural Research (EIAR) had been reorganized since 1997 with mandates for generating new varieties of planting materials, improvement and adaptation of technologies in crops, livestock and natural resource conservation, forestry, and socio-economic livelihoods .

Since 1995, the agricultural extension has been oriented towards the promotion of agricultural package as a vehicle for disseminating research generated technologies along with input supply and credit information.

The Agricultural Technical and Vocational Education and Training, known as Agri-TVET, is a major component of the rural development strategy to improve the skills of producers by investing in the most important and abundant resource, the agricultural labour force. Under this program, Farmers Training Centers (FTCs) are being established at each Peasant Association level (the smallest administrative unit) to provide training to farmers on various agricultural and non-agricultural fields.

In Ethiopia the poverty rate decreased by over ten percentage points during the nine-year period between 2004 and 2012 and it has continued to drop till now. Agricultural development, as

indicated by the proportion of budgetary allocation amounting to 12-17 percent of its annual budget, and several reforms to improve productivity, has resulted in agricultural production growth of about 8% to 10% annually over the last several years. This period also saw high population growth (74 million in 2004 to 91.7 million in 20123). However, poverty, malnutrition and vulnerability remain high,. As a result, the total number of people in poverty is still high, with 4.29% of the population are absolute poor and an estimated 43% (46% of the rural population) are vulnerable to absolute poverty Moreover, despite an impressive economic recovery and agricultural productivity, there has not been corresponding reduction of under nutrition in the country. Child stunting reduced by 24% during the last ten years. Maternal and child under nutrition remain significant health and development problem and challenge for the country, with 40.4% of children stunted, 25% of children underweight and 9% of children wasted; and 27% of women undernourished(DHS 2014).

In Ethiopia, the underlying causes of malnutrition are multifactorial and identified as household food insecurity poor feeding and child caring practice and poor sanitation /environmental

Chronic and transitory household food insecurity remains among the major problems facing both rural and urban community in Ethiopia.. The main causes are household food insecurity include recurrent drought, population pressure, small farmland size, erosion and land degradation, low input-productivity, smallholder subsistence agriculture, livestock disease, insufficient and erratic rainfall, post-harvest and storage loss, poor access to water or irrigation, and limited market access to foods.

The diversity of diet is pivotal to the attainment of food and nutrition security, since diverse diets tend to be richer in micro and macro nutrients. Most Ethiopian still subsist on diets based on staple cereal and root crops that are lacking in nutritional diversity especially high quality protein and micronutrient that are essential for healthy growth and development. Food security therefore should encompass availability of adequate quantities of a diversity of food commodities such as other cereals, fruits, vegetables and animal products at household level.

Most malnourished children and women live in families who are vulnerable and repeatedly affected by food shortage, shocks, and emergencies. . This is often due to the fact that poor families do not have the resources to produce or they lack sufficient income to purchase sufficient amounts

of the right kinds of food, a situation that may be made worse by a combination of poor feeding practices and high levels of illness and disease. Children and women from well-off farmers are also affected due to low production and consumption of diversified foods, poor sanitation, and nutrition knowledge.

Under nutrition impedes Ethiopian children's growth and mental development, makes them more vulnerable to illness, limits their learning capacity, and decreases their life expectancy. It also affects the productivity of Ethiopian farmers seriously affecting the country agricultural productivity and economic growth. In 2009, Ethiopia lost 16.7% of its GDP because of under nutrition (Cost of Hunger study 2014) Evidence suggests that good nutrition status reduces poverty by boosting productivity throughout the life cycle and over generations. Thus, addressing nutrition using a food based approach by agriculture sector, which is the back bone of the country's fast economic growth, is crucial to improve agricultural productivity and GDP for Ethiopia.

Agriculture sector is a key player in source of income and livelihood for most of the rural communities through production and consumption of nutritious food and contribute for the wellbeing of the population through identifying nutrition gap, designing realistic solutions to address the problem of malnutrition and mainstreaming nutrition into relevant policies and programs, thus contributing to long-term nutrition-sensitive development. In addition ensuring year round availability at local level safe and affordable foods needed for a healthy and sustainable diet and providing appropriate information to consumers and in particular to poor households so that they can make the best use of locally available foods and cover their nutritional requirements, particularly of small children and women.

The Government of Ethiopia puts nutrition as one of the priority agenda in the GTP 2 by including stunting as one of the target and calling for implementation of the National Nutrition Strategy and National Nutrition Program II using multi-sectoral approach. The fact that it advocates for a pro poor economic growth and gives due emphasis to social protection, women empowerment and employment contributes to improved nutrition. The government launched an ambitious initiative named 'Sekota Declaration' to end hunger and under nutrition by 2030 with the goal to improve nutrition to save lives, build resilience, increase economic productivity, and advance development. The role of agriculture sector is clearly indicated in the NNP Strategic objective 4 and result 4.1 with appropriate initiatives.

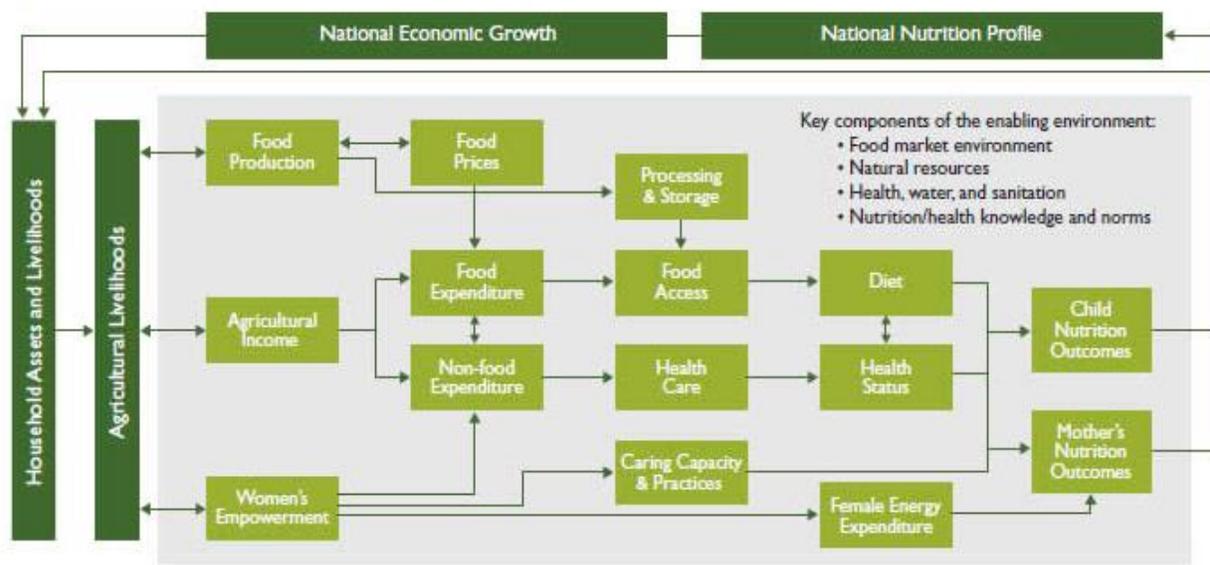
Nutrition-sensitive agriculture aims to maximize the positive impact of the food system on nutrition outcomes while minimizing any unintended, negative consequences of agricultural policies and interventions for the population. It is placing a nutrition lens on the food and agricultural sector as a whole without detracting from the agriculture sector’s own goals, which focuses on increasing production, improving income, and reducing poverty. It is a food-based approach to agricultural development that puts nutritionally rich foods, dietary diversity, and bio fortification at the heart of overcoming malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

### 1.2 Agriculture-Nutrition Linkage Framework

Agriculture and nutrition are part of a virtuous cycle. Not only does increasing agricultural productivity have the potential to improve household nutrition, but healthier and better-nourished smallholder farmers are more productive, earn more income, and contribute to further economic growth.

In order to come out with appropriate nutrition sensitive agricultural strategy it is quite important to understand the linkage between agriculture and nutrition. Accordingly an attempt is made to illustrate the linkages between agriculture and nutrition as indicated in Figure 1 below.

Figure. Conceptual Pathways between Agriculture and Nutrition



Adapted for Feed the Future by Anna Herforth, Jody Harris, and SPRING, from Gillespie, Harris, and Kadiyala (2012) and Headey, Chiu, and Kadiyala (2011).

Source: Herforth and Harris, 2014

“Agricultural livelihoods affect nutrition of individual household members through multiple pathways and interactions. The framework depicted above helps us to understand how various agriculture investments or activities could improve access to food and health care; how they impact and are affected by the enabling environment; and how they ultimately affect the nutrition of individual women and children.

“The pathways are not always linear, and there are many interactions among them. In general, they can be divided into three main routes at the household level: 1) food production, which can affect the food available for household consumption as well the price of diverse foods; 2) agricultural income for expenditure on food and non-food items; and 3) women's empowerment, which affects income, caring capacity and practices, and female energy expenditure. Acting on all of these routes is the enabling environment for nutrition, including other several key components: the natural resources environment; the food market environment; the health, water, and sanitation environment; nutrition/ health knowledge and norms; and other factors, such as policy and governance. These components may affect nutrition of consumers or communities, not only farmer households. Child nutrition outcomes ultimately feed back into national economic growth and household assets and livelihoods, including those that contribute to both agricultural and nonagricultural sources of income (Herforth & Harris 2014).”

In addition, improved nutritional status and health status are expected to increase individual productivity in the short run (particularly in areas where manual labor is common) and in the long run, thereby improving household production and income.

Along the loops of agriculture-nutrition linkage agricultural research, agricultural extension service (outreach), market development, demand creation and nutrition education focused on behavioral changes specifically dietary habit are catalysts to bring about positive changes on nutrition status

As indicated in Figure 1 there are multiple links that connect agriculture production to nutritional status therefore the proposed nutrition sensitive interventions in this strategic document tried to consider these links that improve household income, food consumption, or individual nutritional status. This strategy has been developed to add value and create synergy to existing MOA initiatives, programs, and

interventions and other initiatives of the government such as NNP, ‘Sekota declaration’ CADAP, etc. to harness the full potential of agriculture to improve nutrition for Ethiopians especially mothers and children. The strategy acts as also a guidance tool to ensure MOA policies, programs, interventions, and implementations apply nutrition-sensitive food and agriculture-based approaches to contribute to the NNP objectives of improving nutrition at household level.

#### **1.4. The gaps identified in the agricultural sector in the areas of nutrition**

- ❖ Most agricultural productivity programs focus only on high value crops and livestock productivity
- ❖ Most agricultural strategies and programs lacking nutrition improvement objectives
- ❖ Low capacity of MOA for mainstreaming nutrition to the sector
- ❖ Limited high level political commitment
- ❖ Poor coordination of nutrition work among several sectors and departments of MOA
- ❖ Limited meaningful involvement of MOA in the National Nutrition Coordination Body

#### **1.5 Opportunities for the sector to act on the identified Gaps**

- ❖ Government of Ethiopia initiatives to revive the economy and the agricultural sector with nutrition lens
  - Renewed high level commitment of the government to end hunger and under nutrition by 2030 using the “Seqota declaration’ as a movement campaign
  - Government and MOA high priority of food security at household level
  - GTP 2 plans to improve nutrition and food security and equitable economic growth
- ❖ Evidence based nutrition sensitive strategies are available
- ❖ International commitments and declarations to end hunger and extreme poverty and ensure nutrition security: CADAP, NEPAD, the New Alliance for Food and Nutrition Security in Ethiopia, and SUN initiatives.

## **2. Goals and objectives of the strategic doc**

**Goal:** - To contribute to the NNP II Goal of reducing child and women under nutrition by increasing the quantity and quality of food available, accessible, and affordable and promoting utilization of diversified foods for all Ethiopians.

- NNP II targets:
  - Reduce the prevalence of stunting from 40% to 26% by 2020;
  - Reduce the prevalence of chronic under nutrition in women of reproductive age from 27% to 16% by 2020.

### **Objectives**

- To increase the production and access to diverse, safe, and nutrient dense foods for all urban and rural population of Ethiopia at all times.
- To improve household consumption of nutritious, diverse, and safe food by all Ethiopians.
- To protect vulnerable populations using social transfer scheme or programs, pro poor food security interventions, and emergency food relief.

## **3. Strategic objectives and initiatives**

MOA has already put in place programs and initiatives that directly and indirectly contribute to the reduction of under-nutrition. These programs include Food Security Program, Agricultural Growth Program, disaster prevention and preparedness through Disaster Risk Management, Livestock master plan, and Agricultural Research Systems. The MOA will continue to implement an scale up these activities with nutrition lens. The nutrition sensitive initiatives and activities in this strategy are new or refocusing existing ones to achieve the strategic objectives outlined below.

The following six strategic objectives are identified to ensure the GTP2 of MOA is nutrition sensitive and also harmonized to the GTP 2 agricultural sector strategic objectives.

## **Strategic objective 1. Leverage nutrition in to agriculture policy, strategy, and program documents at all level**

The Government of Ethiopia has demonstrated its policy commitment to nutrition by developing a stand-alone National Nutrition Strategy (NNS) and a National Nutrition Programme (NNP), along with a set of guidelines. The government has also incorporated nutrition, in particular stunting, into its 5-year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP). Sectoral strategies and programs also provide a good opportunity to mainstream nutrition into other NNP implementing sectors.

The existing MOA policy aims at increasing productivity and through which improves the nutritional needs of the population which the MoA of Ethiopia so far has been doing. However this approach does not consider the multiple factors that impact on nutrition. The current agricultural policy and most of the ministry strategies and programs do not explicitly aim to improve the nutrition of communities and households. Therefore revising the MoA agricultural policy, strategies, programs and guideline documents is the first step in mainstreaming nutrition into agriculture to tailor agricultural interventions with the consideration of nutritional merits.

### **Result 1.1 Updated agriculture sector policy/strategies and guidelines linked with nutrition sensitive interventions**

#### **Initiatives**

1.1.1 Mainstream nutrition interventions into the agriculture program/projects and investment frameworks, and action plans

1.1.1.1 Core activities

- Gap analysis of the existing policy/strategy documents and update accordingly
- Advocacy and sensitization on nutrition sensitive-agriculture interventions
- Build on and insure the dissemination and implementation of NNP II documents at all levels of administrative structures
- Prepare implementation guideline to facilitate smooth implementation of this strategy

1.1.2 Support the strengthening of agriculture education curriculums for standardized nutrition-sensitive agriculture pre-service education in agriculture colleges and universities

1.1.2.1 Core activities

- Organize farm lab in agriculture colleges and universities
- Set school nutrition clubs
- Build the capacity of implementing institutions

**Strategic objective 2: Establish and strengthened structure responsible for nutrition mainstreaming and build capacity of agricultural sector at all**

MOA has established a food and nutrition case team at the Federal level, which is commendable and first step to mainstream NNP into the sector. However, considering the responsibility in this strategic document, there should be same structure at the regional level and capacity at all level As evidence based approaches is the best customized way of dealing with issues in developing countries nutrition sensitive issues planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation system has to be well organized and for this cause well-structured nutrition system in the agricultural sector is crucial.

Thus, there is a need to strengthen the existing nutrition case team at federal level and organize a nutrition case team at decentralized MOA structure; to have an organized nutrition information system integrated to the existing agriculture information system to monitor the implementation of the activities, and evaluate the contribution of MOA to NNP ; and to build the capacity, both hard and soft ware, in terms of human resource, financial, and logistics inputs from federal level to kebele level should be leveraged to implement the nutrition sensitive interventions and let the structure well function.

**Result 2.1: Strengthened food and nutrition unit within the structure of MOA at all level**

**Initiatives'**

2.1.1 Strengthened food and nutrition unit at national level and establish at regional, zonal and woreda level.

2.1.1.1 Core Activities

- Create a human resource career structure for food and nutrition with in the ministry
- Establish a food and nutrition working group from key departments, sectors, and EIAR of MOA

2.1.2 Establish nutrition demonstration corner at Farmers Training Center (FTC).

2.1.2.1 Core Activities

- Promotion of diversified food production
- Promotion of Small animal rearing
- Training of model farmers on NSA
- Mainstream nutrition in model farmers training centers
- Agronomic and Cooking demonstration at FTC

**Result 2.2: Capacity building on nutrition sensitive agriculture at all level of MOA**

**Initiatives**

2.2.1 Strengthen the capacity of the agriculture sector to integrate nutrition sensitive interventions through trainings and exchange visits

2.2.1.1 Core activities

- Conduct capacity need assessment at all levels to determine existing gaps including gaps in pre and in-service training needs
- Revise the existing materials with nutrition lens and developing training materials as per the gaps identified.
- Develop training and job aid materials for DAs
- Ensure existing agricultural training materials are nutrition sensitive and develop standardized nutrition sensitive training manual for policy makers and implementers in the sector

2.2.1 Create strong and sustainable community ownership on nutrition sensitive interventions (NSI) by promoting gender and nutrition-sensitive interventions at all level.

2.2.1.1 Core Activities

- Conducting community mobilization along with key informants
- Promote NSI through 1000 days approach.
- Award community nutrition champions

**Result 2.3: Higher education institutions’ college of Agriculture and ATVET College agriculture curricula are revised and strengthened with nutrition sensitive agriculture competencies.**

**Initiatives:**

2.3.1 MoA work closely with MoE in ensuring higher education’s curriculum to incorporate nutrition sensitive agriculture competencies as a course for bachelor and mid-level agricultural graduates

2.3.1.1 Core Activities

- Define NS core competencies
- Incorporate identified core competencies to the structure

2.3.2 Capacity building for ATVETs and Universities Colleges of Agricultural to effectively deliver competency based nutrition sensitive agriculture courses

2.3.2.1 Core Activities

- Quality of education using SBMR(standard based management and recognition), kaizen
- Organize demonstration sites, avail relevant books etc

2.3.3 Work with higher institution to conduct gender and nutrition sensitive agriculture operational research and disseminate those evidences to surrounding communities

2.3.3.1 Core Activities

- Encourage research works in universities to be nutrition sensitive
- Disseminate nutrition sensitive agricultural research finding
- Academic center of excellence in nutrition sensitive agriculture is established, strengthened and used for research and technology transfer.

**Strategic objective 3. Enhance resilience of vulnerable community and households prone to climate change and moisture stress.**

- The Ethiopian agriculture is mainly dependent on rain for farming and water resource, which makes the country highly susceptible to climate change. This will positively affect chronic and transitory food and nutrition insecurity in the moisture stress areas of the country. Thus, concerted efforts need to be exerted to enhance building of resilience to stand shocks by drought prone communities and vulnerable population groups. The government has a clear Climate Resilient Green Economy policy, Climate Smart

Agriculture strategy, and Disaster Risk Management Policy to mitigate the impact of climate change on food and nutrition security at national and household level. The MOA continues to implement the Disaster Risk Management and Climate Smart Agriculture with good quality and at scale, which in turn improves nutrition and food security for vulnerable rural and urban households.

- The safety net program which is one of the food security programs implemented in moisture stress areas of the country with the objective of stabilizing household asset levels and improve household food security could be sighted as one of the programs designed to build the resilience of community and households vulnerable to drought. Though nutrition was loosely embedded in the first three phases of the Productive Safety Net Programs due emphasis was given in PSNP4. The development objective of PSNP 4 is *“increased access to safety net and disaster risk management systems, complementary livelihoods services and nutrition support for food insecure households in rural Ethiopia (PSNP 4 PAD September 2014).”* This is an appropriate platform to deliver nutrition specific and sensitive interventions to vulnerable population targeted by the program and expected to contribute to the objective of the National Nutrition Program which is reduction of stunting in children under age of five.

**Result 3.1** Build resilience of food insecure communities and households by entrenching nutrition sensitive intervention in the resource transfer programs/projects

### **Initiatives**

#### 3.1.1 Mainstream nutrition sensitive agricultural intervention and practices in resource transfer programs

- Use soft conditionality’s related to health and nutrition in order to transfer safety net support to pregnant, lactating women and household with under 2 years of age children
- Link nutritionally vulnerable households to maternal and child health nutrition services
- Provide extension services that will promote translation of income obtained from complementary livelihood services such as on-farm, off

farm and labour/employment opportunities to diversify food consumption

- improve access to safe water for household, community and their livestock
- Develop and promote diversified early maturing nutrient dense crop varieties

### 3.1.2 Strengthen the existing coping mechanisms practiced by the community

#### **Strategic objective 4. Increase year-round availability, access, and consumption of diverse, safe, and nutritious foods**

Majority of Ethiopian farmers are smallholders and depend on rain-fed farming system. Food insecurity is experienced by households living in drought prone lowland areas and degraded highlands. Due to uneven distribution and fluctuation of rain substantial number of households or low income to purchase food in food secure areas also face recurrent seasonal food insecurity. Production of cereals and root/tubers cover the larger acre of cultivated land and by far dominates the food production system. Ethiopian people, particularly farmers depend on monotonous staple diets which are usually low in micronutrients. There is very low production and consumption of fruits, vegetables, and animal source foods among the farming community. The production of diversified foods and consumption of nutritious foods among the farming community is constrained by lack of knowledge on food groups and dietary diversity strategies; very limited access to farm land, irrigation schemes; and income sociocultural factors.

The MOA will work to ensure year-round availability, access, and consumption of variety, safe and nutritious foods. Promoting production and consumption nutrient dense crops, animal source foods; leveraging the natural resources base to increase availability of food; enhancing agricultural research and increasing improved technology adoption; and improving farmers' dietary diversity knowledge and practice are the key strategies proposed to achieve the strategic objective.

The GTP 2 and AGP 2 planed to increase the productivity of selected vegetables and fruits, poultry, and livestock and their markets structure. This will improve the availability of these nutritious

foods at the national and regional level and to a limited extent at household level. Thus, fruits, vegetables, pulses, and bio fortified crops production for home consumption and homestead poultry should be promoted and supported by the agricultural extension system to complement the large scale and market-based production of these foods. Mixed consumption of cereals and pulses and addition of animal sources has complementary effect and improves protein intake. The commonly consumed diets of Ethiopian farmer households can be made nutritious with addition of small amount of vegetables and fruits from homestead production.

Promotion and support of production and consumption of variety and nutritious foods needs to be supported with improved household dietary diversity knowledge and practice which can be achieved by a coordinated work of AEWs and HEWs and integrating behavior change communication into frontline agricultural training materials and roles and responsibility.

MOA Food Security Strategy components (Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), the Household Asset Building Programs (HABP), the Complimentary Community Investment(CCI), and improved access to land (through Resettlement) will directly improve household food and nutrition security for vulnerable households, where most malnourished children are leaving. Thus, MOA will continue to implement these nutrition sensitive interventions and ensure proper targeting of the needy to increase food availability. The initiatives under this strategic objective will focus on interventions that make the FSP more nutrition sensitive.

The agricultural productivity initiatives or components in AGP 2 will also contribute directly and to a large extent indirectly to food and nutrition security at household level. However, there are opportunities and new initiatives to ensure the productivity interventions benefit households to improve all year round availability of diversified foods. MOA will continue to reach cooperatives and small holder farmers through components of AGP-2, which will contribute in improving food availability of selected value chain crops or livestock without a negative impact on household availability of diversified and safe foods. The initiatives under this strategic objective are to specify nutrition and food security initiatives to complement the FSP and agricultural productivity efforts and ensure availability and accessibility of all year round diversified foods at household level and promote their consumption.

## **Result 4.1. Increased production and household consumption variety nutrient dense crops**

### **Initiative 4.1.1. Increase Production and consumption of fruit and vegetable**

- 1.1.1 Ensure access to quality fruit and vegetable seeds and other inputs
- 1.1.2 Support the establishment of fruit and vegetable nursery sites and demonstration sites at FTCs
- 1.1.3 Promote homestead, urban, and school gardening
- 1.1.4 Promote and support community level production of fruits and vegetable
- 1.1.5 Improve postharvest handling and processing and ensure safety of produces
- 1.1.6 Improve market linkage for fruit and vegetable

### **Initiative 4.1. 2. Increased production and household consumption of diversified staple crops**

- 1.2.1 Promote production and consumption of bio fortified crops (High Iron Beans, quality protein maize (QPM), orange fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) etc.)
- 1.2.2 Promote production and consumption of nutrient dense pulses
- 1.2.3 Promote nutrient enhancing and consumption of mix of cereals and pulse
- 1.2.4 Promote and increase household access to fortified flours through farmers cooperatives

## **Result 4.2. Increased production and household consumption of animal source foods**

### **Initiatives**

- 2.1. Increase production and household consumption of meat, milk and egg
- 2.2. Promote rearing of improved breeds of dairy cattle, small ruminants, and poultry
- 2.3. Support the establishment of milk collection centers, and improved milk processing technologies at house hold level
- 2.4. Promote confined/caged poultry production systems
- 2.5. Increase production and consumption of fish
- 2.6. Promote small scale beekeeping by women and other vulnerable groups
- 2.7. Ensure the safety of animal sources foods
- 2.8. Improve farmers' access to fodders considering safety
- 2.9. Support /establish agro business centers and FTCs to promote production of poultry, fisheries, small livestock stock and cattle.
- 2.10. Strengthening linkages with local markets and ensure that small-holder farmers and pastoralists have consistent access to input and produce markets and income streams

## **Result 4.3: Integrated nutrition sensitive approaches to transfer programs**

### **Initiatives**

- 3.1. Ensure asset transfers or asset building interventions properly targets women and vulnerable households
- 3.2. Ensure vulnerable households with a malnourished child are adequately targeted in transfer and safety net initiatives
- 3.3. Improve the nutritional value of the food basket with the addition of pulses or the equivalent cash value.
- 3.4. Enhance the implementation of nutrition-sensitive public works

- 3.5. Introduce soft conditionality related to attendance at BCC events or uptake of other services, in order to increase health-seeking behavior

#### **Result 4.4. Enhanced Agricultural research and adoption of technology for increased household access to safe nutritious food**

##### **Initiatives**

- 4.4.1 Support development of improved breeds of dairy cattle, small ruminants, and poultry, and increase access to farmers
- 4.4.2 Support development of bio fortified crops and vegetables and increase access to farmers
- 4.4.3 Establish bio fortification center and capacity at EIAR
- 4.4.4 Identify and scale up selected best practices on preservation, storage and /processing of fruit and vegetable, dairy product, fish, and animal products at farm and household level
- 4.4.5 Promote women's labor and time saving technologies
- 4.4.6 Research and produce micronutrient enhanced fertilizers, e.g Zinc fortified fertilizer

#### **Result 4.5. Improved natural resources base to improve food availability**

##### **Initiatives**

- 4.5.1 Increase access to small scale irrigation/ water conservation systems for home gardening, and fishery
- 4.5.2 Identify and promote production and consumption of locally available underutilized nutrient dense foods, including proper management of wild fruits
- 4.5.3 Promote fodder production on soil and water conservations structures

#### **Result 4.6. Increased nutrition-sensitive agriculture knowledge and practice of farmers**

Promotion of food production alone is not adequate to produce the intended nutritional impacts unless nutrition education component is integral part of production interventions to promote households consumption of these diversified and safe foods. At the same time, it promotes use of income from farm or off-farm activities to purchase of quality and diversified foods and inputs for nutrition sensitive household initiatives mentioned above.

##### **Initiatives**

- 5.1. Improve household dietary diversity knowledge and practice of farmers
- 5.2. Establish appropriate nutrition behavior change communication strategies relevant for NSA
- 5.3. Conduct regular food demonstration at FTCs and farmers exchange events
- 5.4. Use local media to address food taboos and cultural constrains
- 5.5. Integrate SBCC relevant for NSA in all farmer and DAs training manuals.

## **Strategic Objective 5. Gender**

Gender and nutrition can be considered as two sides of the same coin. It has been described in the NNP gender to be the cause and consequence of hunger and malnutrition and also gender inequality to be associated with higher levels of acute and chronic under-nutrition. The ultimate nutritional benefits of increased incomes are determined by who controls the income and how it is distributed within the household. Women typically spend a higher proportion of their income on food and health care for children than do men.

Improvements to gender equality and women's decision-making power can significantly reduce child malnutrition rates. World Bank identified that empowering women is the best approach to affect nutrition through agriculture. Reports have also demonstrated that several animal production projects that succeeded in improving diet or nutritional status depended on women being actively involved and playing a critical role in the projects. So, women have to be at the center of nutrition related interventions both in the rural and urban settings. Organizing women farmer groups in dairy, poultry and vegetable production is very much important for improving the nutritional status of the family.

Women in low-income households are typically fully occupied in a wide array of activities including care giving to children, the sick, and the old; collecting water and fuel; preparing food; and performing household chores. In addition to working in the house, women in rural areas engage in a wide range of farm and off farm activities. They are also the main agricultural producers in many countries. Evidences from different studies show that women spend longer working compromising their ability to care for their children and their family. Introducing and promoting labor and energy saving technologies is crucial to enhance their contribution and ease their workload in the agriculture sector. Creating access to biofuel technologies, improving water access, and also low energy and time demanding technologies for the production are important imputes to reduce the work load for women and save time to care themselves and their children. This improves the nutritional status of women and children.

In the Ethiopian context, men decides on a lot of issues that will positively or negatively affect women decision making on resources and expenditure of income for household good nutrition, So, men involvement intervention should be critical component of gender initiatives to improve production and consumption of diversified food by the family.

## **Result 5.1 Empower women and enhance their role in nutrition sensitive agriculture**

### **Initiative 5.1. Increased access to resources and inputs for women**

- 5.1.1 Promote women involvement in income generating agricultural activities
- 5.1.2 Increase access to agriculture extension services and inputs for women
- 5.1.3 Improve the decision making power of women on resources access and utilization
- 5.1.4 Ensure gender equality in nutrition sensitive agricultural intervention programs
- 5.1.5 Increase women membership and leadership in cooperatives
- 5.1.6 Organizing women farmer groups in dairy, poultry and vegetable production and small scale beekeeping.

### **Initiative 5.2 Promote labor and energy saving technologies to impact women's work load**

- 5.2.1 Make labor and time saving technologies available to women for processing and preparation of foods
- 5.2.2 Make labor and time saving technologies available for agricultural production
- 5.2.3 Promote active male involvement in nutrition and caring practices

### **Initiative 5.3 Promote gender sensitivity in nutrition sensitive agriculture at all level**

- 5.3.1 Collect , analyze and use gender disaggregated data for gender analysis as part of the gap and situation analysis and decision making at all level

## **Strategic objective 6. Develop strong multi-sectorial coordination**

Building strong linkages with different sector organizations would assist achieving better harmonized objective and goals. It improves exchange of information, qualities planning, intervention and evaluation of outcomes. The nutrition sensitive agriculture strategic plan will be implemented with strong commitment and involvement of relevant stake holders from different sectors. MOA with its partners will have internal and external involvement in the implementation process. NNP partners working in the areas of agriculture, nutrition, health, gender, women and children will also have a big role in the implementation of the strategy. In addition the coordination components support the linkages between nutrition in all sectors that deal with the underlying and

basic causes of malnutrition (nutrition sensitive interventions are also being implemented by other sectors).

## **Result 6.1 Improved inter-sectorial nutrition coordination at all level**

### Initiatives

- 6.1.1 Overseeing nutrition related strategies, guidelines
- 6.1.2 Strengthen the food and nutrition unit of MOA that will be primarily responsible for coordinating the mainstreaming of nutrition in the agriculture sector.
- 6.1.3 Strengthening nutrition mainstreaming/linkages with Livestock Sector (fishery, dairy, poultry, etc.), horticulture, crops, food security, natural resource Sector, gender etc.
- 6.1.4 Establish and strengthen nutrition linkages in various agriculture programs/projects (PSNP4, AGP2, drought resilience sustainable livelihood program etc.).
- 6.1.5 MOA collaborate to ensure the capacity of the nutrition coordination body and nutrition technical committees at all levels.

## **Result 6.2 Strong linkage with NNP actress and other relevant national**

- 6.2.1 Strengthen the linkages between HEWs and DAs for improved household nutrition practices.
- 6.2.2 Assist to customize nutrition related national documents. kebele , woreda and regional level
- 6.2.3 Share and promote best achievements practiced at an area or/and operational research findings.
- 6.2.4 Actively engaged in -strengthen the national and regional nutrition coordination bodies (NNCB and RNCB).
- 6.2.5 Strengthen the national and regional nutrition technical bodies (NNTC and RNTC).
- 6.2.6 Establish strong linkage with NNP actors, private sectors, NGOs, academia, researchers, and others.
- 6.2.7 Establish and strengthen the linkage between ATVET and FTCs to use FTCs for practical demonstration sites for students learning & in-service trainings.

#### **4. Monitoring and Evaluation**

This strategic document will be implemented as part of MOA framework. Monitoring of implementation of the strategy will be integrated in to the performance evaluation accountability and reporting framework. A reporting structure will be established within includes specific indicators for monitoring progress against planned activities and assessments

- Develop comprehensive plan and establish better monitoring and follow-up mechanism on multi-sector NNP implementation activities
- Ensure incorporation of appropriate indicator in Sectoral integrated supportive supervision (ISS) tools
- Review the implementation of NNP on regular basis (quarterly, bi-annually and annually).
- Develop check list for monitoring activities
- Integrate the recording and reporting of sex disaggregated nutrition data within existing sectoral information systems.
- Ensure appropriate integration of nutrition sensitive results in sector specific woreda based plans.
- Build the capacity of MOA at all levels to collect and utilize nutrition data for action.
- Ensure incorporation of appropriate indicators in sectoral Integrated Supportive Supervision (ISS) and regular sectoral review meetings.
- Conduct an annual NNP review meeting at national and regional levels involving all relevant sectors.
- Conduct evaluation, research and surveys

## 5. Five Years Strategic Action Plan

Result	Initiatives	Indicators	Target	Implementation Period					Means of Verification	Responsible Unite
				2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
Strategic objective 1. Leverage nutrition in to agriculture policy and strategy documents at all level										
<b>Updated agriculture sector policy/strategies and guidelines linked with nutrition sensitive interventions</b>	Mainstream nutrition interventions into the agriculture program/projects and investment frameworks, and action plans	Number of agriculture programs/ projects mainstreamed nutrition intervention								
	Support the strengthening of agriculture education curriculums for standardized nutrition-sensitive agriculture pre-service education in agriculture colleges and universities	Number of agriculture colleges and universities revised their curricula with respect to nutrition sensitive agriculture								
Strategic objective 2: Establish and strengthened structure responsible for nutrition mainstreaming and build capacity of agricultural sector at all										
<b>Strengthened food and nutrition unit within the structure of MOA at all level</b>	Strengthened food and nutrition unit at national level and establish at regional, zonal and woreda level	Number of food and nutrition units established at regional, zonal and Woreda level							➤	
	Establish nutrition demonstration corner at Farmers Training Center (FTC).	Number of nutrition demonstration corners established at Farmers Training Centers							•	

Result	Initiatives	Indicators	Target	Implementation Period					Means of Verification	Responsible Unite
				2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
Capacity building on nutrition sensitive agriculture at all level of MOA	Strengthen the capacity of the agriculture sector to integrate nutrition sensitive interventions through trainings and exchange visits	Number of consultative workshops organized and delivered.								
	Create strong and sustainable community ownership on NSA.	Number of agriculture nutrition community days organized								
Result 2.3 Higher education institutions' college of Agriculture and ATVET College agriculture curricula are revised and strengthened with nutrition sensitive agriculture competencies.	MoA work closely with MoE in ensuring higher education's curriculum to incorporate nutrition sensitive agriculture competencies as a course for bachelor and mid-level agricultural graduates	Number of higher education institutes incorporated nutrition sensitive agriculture competencies as a course for bachelor and mid-level agricultural graduates								
	Capacity building for ATVETs and Universities Colleges of Agricultural to effectively deliver competency based nutrition sensitive agriculture courses	Number of Consultative workshops organized with Universities and ATVETs.  Number of experience sharing sessions organized and conducted.								
	Work with higher institution to conduct gender and nutrition sensitive agriculture operational research and disseminate those evidences to surrounding communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of gender And nutrition sensitive agriculture operational research conducted in collaboration with higher institutions</li> <li>➤ Number of gender And nutrition sensitive agriculture operational research findings disseminated to surrounding communities</li> </ul>								

Result	Initiatives	Indicators	Target	Implementation Period					Means of Verification	Responsible Unit
				2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
Strategic objective 3. Enhance resilience of vulnerable community and households prone to climate change and moisture stress.										
<b>Result 3.1 Build resilience of food insecure communities and households by entrenching nutrition sensitive intervention in the resource transfer programs/projects</b>	3.1.1 Mainstream nutrition sensitive agricultural intervention and practices in resource transfer programs	Number of resource transfer programs mainstreamed nutrition sensitive agriculture intervention and practice								
	3.1.2 Strengthen the existing coping mechanisms practiced by the community	Percentage of HHs that improved their coping mechanism								
Strategic objective 4. Increase year-round availability, access, and consumption of diverse, safe, and nutritious foods										
<b>Result 4.1. Increased production and household consumption variety nutrient dense crops</b>	Increase Production and consumption of fruit and vegetable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Percentage of HHs that produced fruits and vegetables</li> <li>➤ Percentage of HHs that consumed fruits and vegetables</li> </ul>								
	Increased production and household consumption of diversified staple crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Percentage of HHs who produced diversified staple crops</li> <li>➤ Percentage of HHs who consumed diversified staple crops</li> </ul>								

Result	Initiatives	Indicators	Target	Implementation Period					Means of Verification	Responsible Unite
				2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
<b>Result 4.2. Increased production and household consumption of animal source foods Initiatives</b>	Increase production and household consumption of meat, milk and egg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Percentage of HHs who consumed meat</li> <li>➤ Percentage of HHs who consumed milk</li> <li>➤ Percentage of HHs who consumed egg</li> </ul>								
	Promote rearing of improved breeds of dairy cattle, small ruminants, and poultry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Percentage of farmers with improved breeds of dairy cattle</li> <li>➤ Percentage of farmers with improved breeds of small ruminants</li> <li>➤ Percentage of farmers with improved breeds of poultry</li> </ul>								
	Support the establishment of milk collection centers, and improved milk processing technologies at house hold level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of milk collection centers established</li> <li>➤ Number of improved milk processing technologies established at HH level</li> </ul>								
	Promote confined/caged poultry production systems	Number confined/caged poultry production systems established								
	Increase production and consumption of fish	Percentage of farmers who consumed fish								
	Promote small scale beekeeping by women and other vulnerable groups	Number of small scale beekeeping established by women and other vulnerable groups								
	Ensure the safety of dietary sources	<p>Number of food safety manuals prepared and distributed.</p> <p>Number of training workshops organized and delivered on food safety.</p>								

Result	Initiatives	Indicators	Target	Implementation Period					Means of Verification	Responsible Unite
				2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
	Support /establish agro business centers and FTCs to promote production of poultry, fisheries, small livestock stock and cattle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Number of agro business centers supported/established to promote production of poultry, fisheries, small livestock stock and cattle</li> <li>➤ Number of FTCs supported/established to promote production of poultry, fisheries, small livestock stock and cattle</li> </ul>								
	Improve farmers' access to fodders considering safety	Percentage of farmers who had access to fodders								
	Strengthening linkages with local markets and ensure that small-holder farmers and pastoralists have consistent access to input and produce markets and income streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Percentage of small holder farmers linked with markets to have access to input and produced for markets</li> <li>➤ Percentage of pastoralists linked with markets to have access to input and produced for markets</li> </ul>			X	X	X			
<b>Result 4.3: Integrated nutrition sensitive approaches to transfer programs</b>	3.1 Ensure asset transfers or asset building interventions properly targets women and vulnerable households	% of asset transfer/building programs specifically addressing vulnerable households								
	3.2. Ensure vulnerable households with a malnourished child are adequately targeted in transfer and safety net initiatives	% of vulnerable households with a malnourished child targeted as per the guideline								

Result	Initiatives	Indicators	Target	Implementation Period					Means of Verification	Responsible Unite
				2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
	3.3. Improve the nutritional value of the food basket with the addition of pulses or the equivalent cash value.	% of intervention programs with improved food baskets.								
	3.5. Introduce soft conditionality related to attendance at BCC events or uptake of other services, in order to increase health-seeking behavior	% of BCC events which introduced soft conditionality								
	3.4. Enhance the implementation of nutrition-sensitive public works	Number of nutrition sensitive public works.								
<b>Result 4.4. Enhanced Agricultural research and adoption of technology for increased household access to safe nutritious food</b>	4.4.1 Support development of improved breeds of dairy cattle, small ruminants, and poultry, and increase access to farmers	➤ Number of farmers who supported to have access to improved breeds of dairy cattle,, small ruminants, and poultry								
	Support development of bio fortified crops and vegetables and increase access to farmers	➤ Number of farmers who supported to have access to bio fortified crops and vegetables								
	Establish bio fortification center and capacity at EIAR	➤ Number of bio fortification center establish								
	4.4.4 Identify and scale up selected best practices on preservation, storage and /processing of fruit and vegetable, dairy product, fish, and animal products at farm and household level	Number of best practice identified and scaled up on preservation, storage and /processing of fruit and vegetable, dairy product, fish, and animal products at farm and household level								
	4.4.6 Research and produce micronutrient enhanced fertilizers, e.g Zinc fortified fertilizer	Number of research conducted to produce micronutrient enhanced fertilizers								

Result	Initiatives	Indicators	Target	Implementation Period					Means of Verification	Responsible Unite
				2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
	4.4.5 Promote women's labor and time saving technologies	Number of technologies developed and implemented to save women's labor and time								
<b>Result 4.5. Improved natural resources base to improve food availability Initiatives</b>	4.5.1 Increase access to small scale irrigation/ water conservation systems for home gardening, and fishery	Number of small scale irrigation and water conservation systems built for home gardening.								
	4.5.2 Identify and promote production and consumption of locally available underutilized nutrient dense foods, including proper management of wild fruits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of household produced locally available nutrient dense food</li> <li>• % of household consumed locally available nutrient dense food</li> </ul>								
	4.5.3 Promote fodder production on soil and water conservations structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of household engaged in fodder production on soil and water conservations structures</li> </ul>								
<b>Result 4.6. Increased nutrition-sensitive agriculture knowledge and practice of farmers</b>	5.1. Improve household dietary diversity knowledge and practice of farmers	% of household who have knowledge of food groups and dietary diversity % of household who have practiced dietary diversity								
	5.2. Establish appropriate nutrition behavior change communication strategies relevant for NSA	NSA strategy document containing evidenced based BCCS relevant for NSA.								
	5.3. Conduct regular food demonstration at FTCs and farmers exchange events	Number of food demonstration conducted at FTCs and farmers exchange events								

Result	Initiatives	Indicators	Target	Implementation Period					Means of Verification	Responsible Unite
				2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
	5.4. Use local media to address food taboos and cultural constrains	Number of local media that have addressed food taboos and cultural constrains in their regular program								
	5.5. Integrate SBCC relevant for NSA in all farmer and Das training manuals.	Number of NSA and Das training manuals that integrated SBCC.								
<b>Strategic Objective 5. Gender</b>										
<b>Result 5.1 Empower women and enhance their role in nutrition sensitive agriculture</b>	Initiative 5.1. Increased access to resources and inputs for women	% of women who had access to resource (resource needs to be defined)  % of women who had access to inputs (inputs needs to be defined)								
	Promote labor and energy saving technologies to impact women's work load	Number of labor and energy saving technologies promoted to reduced women's workload								
	Promote gender sensitivity in nutrition sensitive agriculture at all level	% of NSA programs which promote gender sensitivity.								
<b>Strategic objective 6. Develop strong multi-sectorial coordination</b>										
<b>Result 6.1 Improved inter-sectorial nutrition coordination at all level</b>	6.1.1 Overseeing nutrition related strategies, guidelines									
	6.1.2 Strengthen the food and nutrition unit of MOA that will be primarily responsible for coordinating the mainstreaming of nutrition in the agriculture sector.	% of food and nutrition case team positions occupied.								

Result	Initiatives	Indicators	Target	Implementation Period					Means of Verification	Responsible Unite
				2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
	6.1.3 Strengthening nutrition mainstreaming/linkages with Livestock Sector (fishery, dairy, poultry, etc.), horticulture, crops, food security, natural resource Sector, gender etc.	% of MoANR departments linked with Nutrition case team								
	6.1.4 Establish and strengthen nutrition linkages in various agriculture programs/projects (PSNP4, AGP2, drought resilience sustainable livelihood program etc.).	Number of agriculture programs/projects that established linkages between their program and nutrition								
	6.1.5 MoANR collaborate to ensure the capacity of the nutrition coordination body and nutrition technical committees at all levels.	% of the NNCB & nutrition technical committee meeting attended.								
<b>Result 6.2 Strong linkage with NNP and other relevant national</b>	6.2.1 Strengthen the linkages between HEWs and DAs for improved household nutrition practices.	Joint HEW DAs trainings organized and delivered. Number of joint HEW & DAs house to house visits organized and delivered								
	6.2.2 Assist to customize nutrition related national documents. kebele , woreda and regional level	Number of workshops organized and delivered to support regional offices for cascading national nutrition documents								
	6.2.3 Share and promote best achievements practiced at an area or/and operational research findings.	% of best practices and research findings shared.								
	6.2.5 Strengthen the national and regional nutrition technical bodies (NNTC and RNTC).	Number of consultative workshops organized between NNTC and RNTC.								

Result	Initiatives	Indicators	Target	Implementation Period					Means of Verification	Responsible Unite
				2008	2009	2010	2011	2012		
	6.2.6 Establish strong linkage with NNP actors, private sectors, NGOs, academia, researchers, and others.	Number of meetings organized and chaired by MoANR FNCT on NNP. Number of meetings attended on NNP. Number of joint activities conducted by MoANR and other NNP implementing partners								
	6.2.7 Establish and strengthen the linkage between ATVET and FTCs to use FTCs for practical demonstration sites for students learning & in-service trainings.	Number of pre-service and in-service trainings and practical demonstrations conducted at FTC.								